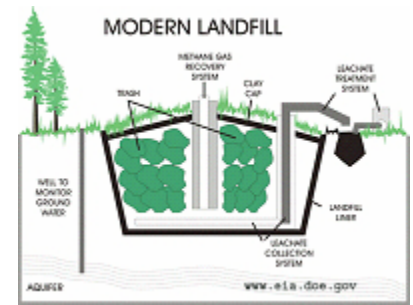


DID YOU KNOW..... LANDFILLS



Originally, garbage and trash from our households were taken to an open dump. Dumps were open holes in the ground where trash was placed, sometimes to be burned and sometimes to be buried. Many different types of waste were thrown into these dumps. They became breeding grounds for disease carrying pests. Dumps also allowed rainwater to wash filthy and poisonous chemicals into streams and groundwater supplies. Today we still put our waste in holes in the ground. However today's trash is more safely buried in sanitary landfills.



We sometimes think of garbage dumps as a modern phenomenon. The types of things we throw away have changed over time but the fact that we throw things away has always existed. In 10,000 BC garbage becomes an issue as people first began to establish settlements. Archeological studies show that a clan of Native Americans in 6,500 BC produced an average of 5.3 pounds of waste a day. In the early 1900s the typical American produced an average of 4.6 pounds of garbage a day. Today each person in the United States generates an average of 4.3 pounds of garbage per day.

Did you know the first municipal dump was established in ancient Athens in 400 BC? An edict was issued against throwing garbage in the streets and waste was required to be disposed no less than one mile away from the city walls. Did you know that the Romans had the first garbage men in 200 AD? They would walk through the streets in two man teams and pick up garbage placing it in a wagon. It wasn't until 1388 that England banned waste disposal in public waterways and ditches. Around 1710 colonists in Virginia began to bury their trash but in other places garbage was routinely dumped into alleys and streets until the mid 1800s. In 1842, a report links disease to filthy environmental conditions and the age of sanitation begins.

By 1902, 79% of the cities surveyed provided some type of garbage collection. In the 1920's filling in wetlands near cities was a popular disposal method for this waste. In 1937 the Fresno, California Sanitary landfill, the United States first true sanitary landfill was opened.

When Did It Happen??

10,000 B.C.
Settlements established

6,500 B.C.
Average waste produced per person is 5.3 pounds

400 B.C.
First municipal dump in Athens Greece

200 A.D.
First garbage men in Rome

1388 A.D.
Waste disposal in public waterways banned in England

1710 A.D.
Virginia colonists began to bury their trash

1842 A.D.
Age of sanitation begins

A sanitary landfill is a permitted facility designed for the burial of wastes. It consists of several liner systems that are scientifically designed to reduce hazards to public health and to protect the environment.

Did you know that the waste generated by the average person in this country is composed of 35% paper, 12% yard trimmings, 11% food scraps, 11% plastics and 31% metals, glass, wood and other things. All these items go into your sanitary landfill.

Did you know that you could make your own edible landfill?

For more information, visit www.ldeq.org or call 225.219.3273.

